Amendments to the specification:

Please replace paragraph **[0023]** with the following paragraph:

[0023] In another example of the polymer used in the antimicrobial polymeric composition, the polymer is a polyamide synthesized using the polymerization reaction disclosed in ~~the U.S. patent application entitled~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/698,619 entitled "Two Dimensional Polyamides Prepared from Unsaturated Carboxylic Acids and Amines" filed on Oct. 27, 2000 by William F. McDonald et al., issued as U.S. Patent 6,495,657, which is owned by the assignee of the present invention and is incorporated herein by reference. In this U.S. patent application, there is described a polymerization process in which a monomer selected from unsaturated carboxylic acids, esters of unsaturated carboxylic acids, anhydrides of unsaturated carboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof is reacted with a first amine to form an intermediate reaction product, and then the intermediate reaction product is reacted with a polyamine to form a polyamide wherein at least a portion of the side chains along a backbone forming the polyamide are amino substituted alkyl chains. See FIGS. 2A and 2B (wherein R_1 includes an amino group). The process for producing this polyamide involves reacting a monomer selected from unsaturated carboxylic acids, esters of unsaturated carboxylic acids, anhydrides of unsaturated carboxylic acids and mixtures thereof with a first amine to form an intermediate reaction product in the reaction mixture, wherein the first amine is selected from RR_1NH, RNH_2, $RR_1NH_2^+$, RNH_3^+ and mixtures thereof, wherein R and R_1 can be the same or different and each contain between about 1 and 50 carbon atoms and are optionally substituted with heteroatoms oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, and phosphorus and combinations thereof. The reaction of the monomer and the first amine forms an intermediate reaction product in the reaction mixture. The intermediate reaction product is then reacted with a second amine selected from R_2R_3NH, R_2NH_2, $R_2R_3NH_2^+$, $R_2NH_3^+$ and mixtures thereof, wherein R_2 and R_3 can be the same or different and each contain an amino group (--NRH, --NH_2, --NRH_2^+, --NH_3^+) and each contain between about 1 and 50 carbon atoms and are optionally substituted with heteroatoms oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, and phosphorus and combinations thereof. The reaction of the intermediate reaction product with the second

amine forms the polyamide in the reaction mixture. The polyamide may then be separated from the reaction mixture. A polyamide produced in accordance with the method of the invention includes multiples of the R, R_1, R_2, and R_3 groups in vertically aligned spaced relationships along a backbone formed by the polyamide.